

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-05 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10

/101 W

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R 072122Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3508

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY QUITO

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, ELAB, PN

SUBJECT: UPEB MINISTERS SEEK INTERNATIONAL BANANA AGREEMENT

REF: PANAMA 1802

(NOTAL)

1. UPEB MINISTERIAL SESSION HELD HERE APRIL 4-5 ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT
TO WORK TOWARD NEGOTIATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON
BANANAS BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COUNTRIES AT THE FAO BANANA
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MEETING WHICH CONVENES AT ABIDJAN APRIL 21. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT WILL

BE TO STRENGTHEN AND STABILIZE MARKET AT PRICES WHICH ARE FAIR TO PRODUCERS. THE UPEB "COORDINATOR" (FORMER COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTER HERNAN VELLAJO) WAS INSTRUCTED TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE FOR TRANSPORT AND MARKETING OF THE FRUIT AND TO INVESTIGATE SALES POSSIBILITIES IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED TO COORDINATE GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS RELATING TO THE MULTINATIONAL BANANA COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING CHANGES IN STATUS, TAXATION, AND PRICES FOR FRUIT PURCHASED FROM INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS.

2. COMMENT: UPEB, CONCEIVED ONE YEAR AGO AND ESTABLISHED LAST SEPTEMBER , HAS YET TO GATHER VERY MUCH STEAM. REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE MEMBERS WHICH HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED CHARTER (COLOMBIA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA) REPORTEDLY PROMISED SUCH ACTION IN NEAR FUTURE. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS REMAINS SOMEWHAT OPEN-ENDED, WITH ECUADOR ALWAYS WELCOMED AS AN OBSERVER. REPRESENTATIVES OF MEXICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND NICARAGUA ALSO ATTENDED LAST WEEK'S TALKS IN THIS CAPACITY. GUATEMALA AGAIN DID NOT SEND MINISTERIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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